

INVINCIBLE IRON MAN™ 12

CIVIL WAR II



MARVEL

BENDIS
DEODATO
MARTIN

MARVEL

**"TSUM
TSUM"
TAKEOVER**

#12
VARIANT
EDITION

INVINCIBLE IRON MAN

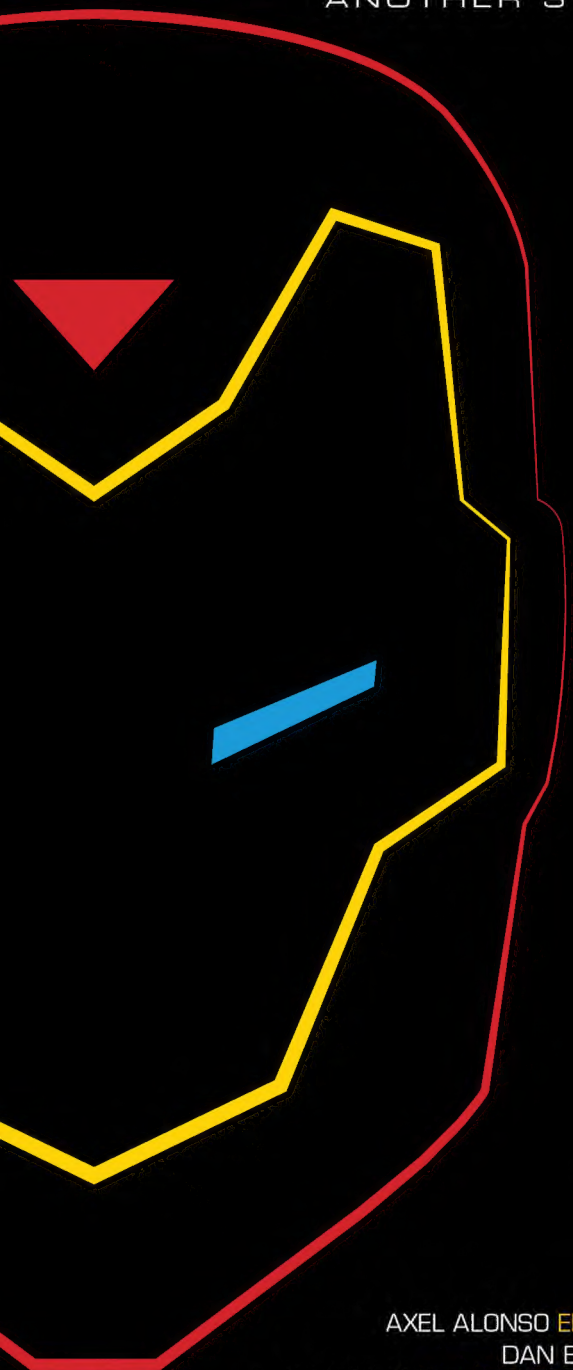


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DIRECT EDITION
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INVINCIBLE IRON MAN

ANOTHER STARK INNOVATION



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Billionaire playboy and genius industrialist Tony Stark was kidnapped during a routine weapons test. His captors attempted to force him to build a weapon of mass destruction. Instead he created a powered suit of armor that saved his life. From that day on, he used the suit to protect the world as the invincible Avenger **IRON MAN**.

.....

FRIDAY'S LOG:

RECENTLY COMPLETED AGENDA ITEMS:

- FAKE YOUR OWN DEATH TO INFILTRATE A JAPANESE TERRORIST CELL.
- KIDNAP THE NEW INHUMAN KNOWN AS ULYSSES WHO CLAIMS HE CAN SEE THE FUTURE AND FIND OUT HOW HE DOES IT.

IN-PROGRESS AGENDA ITEMS:

- APOLOGIZE TO YOUR INVESTORS AND AMARA FOR FAKING YOUR OWN DEATH.
 - RESPOND TO PRESS CONCERNS THAT YOU'RE PLANNING TO START A WAR WITH CAPTAIN MARVEL OVER ULYSSES.
 - TALK TO SOMEONE ABOUT RHODEY'S DEATH BEFORE YOU DO SOMETHING STUPID (I MEAN IT, TONY).
-

BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS **WRITER**

MIKE DEODATO **ARTIST**

FRANK MARTIN **COLOR ARTIST**

VC'S CLAYTON COWLES **LETTERER & PRODUCTION**

MIKE DEODATO & FRANK MARTIN **COVER ARTISTS**

BRANDON PETERSON **VARIANT COVER ARTIST**

ALANNA SMITH **ASSISTANT EDITOR**

TOM BREVOORT **EDITOR**

AXEL ALONSO **EDITOR IN CHIEF** JOE QUESADA **CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER**

DAN BUCKLEY **PUBLISHER** ALAN FINE **EXECUTIVE PRODUCER**

IRON MAN **CREATED BY** STAN LEE, LARRY LIEBER, DON HECK **AND** JACK KIRBY

.....

STARK TOWER
(FORMER).



WHAT IS HE
DOING?



STARK TOWER. THREE WEEKS AGO.

IN COMPANY NEWS, STARK (STRK) SHARES ARE FLAT AS TONY STARK--

I HAVE RETURNED!

I KNOW IT WAS CONFUSING AND, UNINTENTIONALLY, A LITTLE MEAN OF ME TO DISAPPEAR AND BE PRESUMED DEAD, AND FOR THAT I REALLY AM SORRY.

THE RUMORS AND REPORTS ARE TRUE.

I WENT UNDERCOVER OVERSEAS. IT ALL HAPPENED SOMEWHAT SUDDENLY.

WELL, VERY SUDDENLY.

I WAS THERE TO HELP THE AVENGERS AND S.H.I.E.L.D. WITH WHAT MIGHT HAVE TURNED INTO A REAL INTERNATIONAL CRISIS.

BUT CRISIS AVERTED!

SO IT'S BACK TO NORMAL HERE AT STARK HEADQUARTERS.

(WHATEVER CONSTITUTES NORMAL AROUND HERE.)

I AM SO GRATEFUL AND SO VERY PROUD OF ALL OF YOU FOR HOLDING DOWN THE FORT WHILE I WAS GONE.

AS MOST OF YOU KNOW, YOU WERE HIRED SPECIFICALLY BECAUSE I, WE, THE BOARD, NEEDED YOU TO BE ABLE TO HOLD DOWN THE FORT WHEN, AND IF, MY SUPER HERO EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES GOT IN THE WAY OF MY RUNNING THE SHIP.

AND, ONCE AGAIN, THE MACHINE HELD TOGETHER.

THE FAMILY DYNAMIC IN EACH OF YOUR DEPARTMENTS THRIVED, AND FOR THAT I AM GRATEFUL.

I KNOW SOME OF YOU WENT ABOVE AND BEYOND YOUR JOB DESCRIPTIONS TO COVER FOR ME AND THERE WILL BE BONUSES FOR ALL OF YOU IN YOUR NEXT PAY CYCLE.

IT DOESN'T MAKE UP FOR THE EMOTIONAL DISTRESS SOME OF YOU, NOT ALL OF YOU, BUT *SOME* OF YOU MAY HAVE FELT OVER THE IDEA OF MY PASSING.

I KNOW THAT.

BUT IT IS A GENUINE TOKEN OF MY GENUINE APPRECIATION.

I PROMISE YOU, IF IT WAS NOT IMPORTANT, WORLD-SAVING IMPORTANT, I WOULD NOT HAVE PUT ANY OF YOU THROUGH ANY OF THIS.

"WORLD-SAVING IMPORTANT?"



YES, MR. LYNCH.

WORLD-SAVING IMPORTANT.

I HEARD YOU JUST FOUGHT A BUNCH OF TECH-BASED NINJAS.

THAT IS A VERY DISMISSIVE DESCRIPTION OF--

NINJAS. WORLD-THREATENING NINJAS?



SAVED THE WORLD.

THE BOARD DOES NOT THINK THIS WAS AN ADEQUATE EXPLANATION OF--

HERE'S THE COOL THING ABOUT BEING ME, MR. LYNCH, I DON'T ACTUALLY HAVE TO EXPLAIN MYSELF TO YOU.



JUST AS I AM SURE YOU DON'T THINK YOU HAVE TO EXPLAIN YOURSELF TO ME.

LIKE HOW YOU HIRED AN ACTUAL CRIMINAL TO BREAK INTO MY LAB, MY CHURCH, MY DOJO...

...IN WHAT I AM SURE, IN YOUR HEAD, WAS A BRILLIANT MOVE TO GRAB HOLD OF THIS COMPANY.



OR JUST LIKE YOU HAD AN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE RUNNING THIS PLACE WITHOUT OUR KNOWLEDGE OR CONSENT.

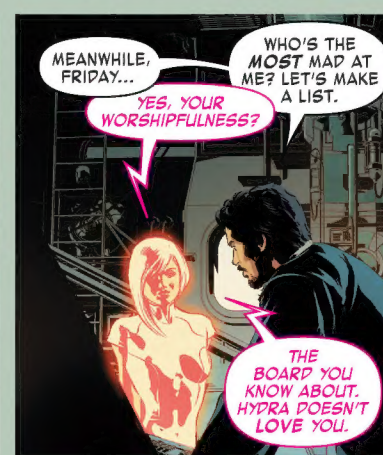
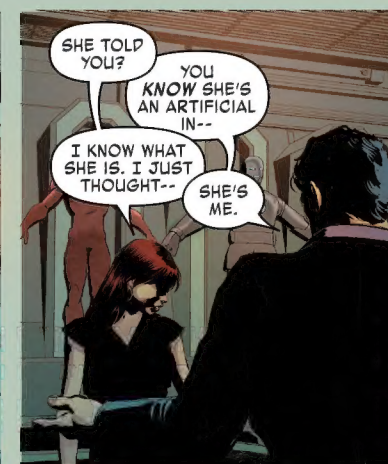
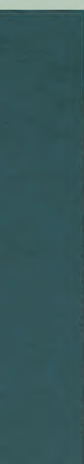
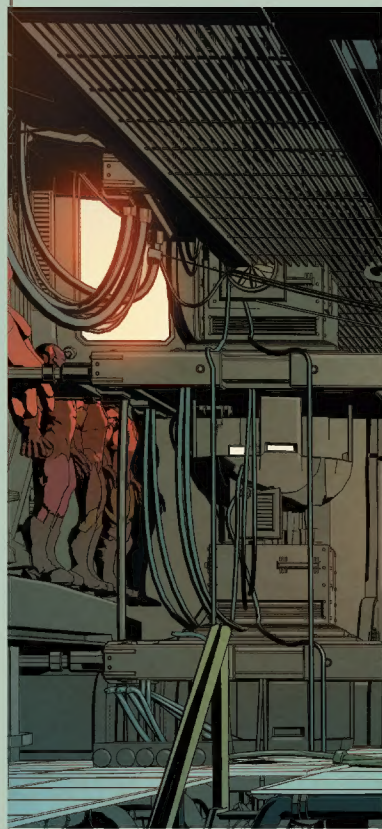


ARE YOU MAD THAT FRIDAY WAS RUNNING THE COMPANY?

OR THAT SHE DOES IT BETTER THAN YOU CAN?

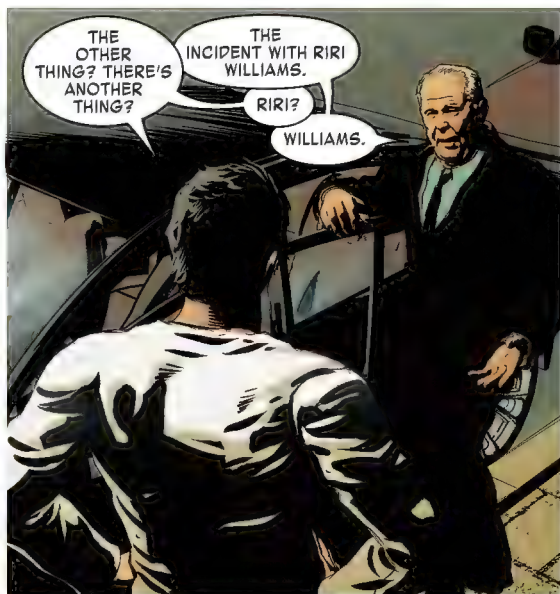
OR THAT IT TOOK YOU TWO WEEKS TO FIGURE OUT WHAT WAS GOING ON FROM YOUR COUNTRY CLUB GOLF COURSE?













EXPLAIN IT TO ME.

RIRI.

YOU'RE A GENIUS.

THERE'S NOTHING TO EXPLAIN, MOM.

THERE'S NOTHING TO--



I DON'T LIKE LABELS, MA.

YOU WERE TESTED. YOU ARE A GENIUS.

M.I.T. GAVE YOU A FREE TICKET.

IT WASN'T A GOOD FIT.



THIS-- THIS IS THE PART YOU HAVE TO EXPLAIN TO ME.

HOW IS M.I.T. NOT A GOOD FIT FOR MY GENIUS DAUGHTER?



SOME THINGS ARE JUST NOT A GOOD FIT. THIS WAS ONE OF THEM.

THEY SAY YOU STOLE--

BORROWED.

--MATERIALS THAT BELONGED TO THE--

BORROWED! THINGS NO ONE WAS USING.

WHY?



I INVENTED.

INVENTORS, SOMETIMES, HISTORICALLY, HAVE TO BE A LITTLE, YOU KNOW, ADVENTUROUS IN SEEING THEIR VISION COME TO--

ARE YOU TRYING TO FANCY-TALK ME OUT OF THE IDEA THAT YOU STOLE STUFF THAT DIDN'T BELONG TO YOU?

MOM. I'LL RETURN IT.



RETURN IT NOW! THEY ARE LOOKING TO PRESS CHARGES!

HLH.

THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT ARRESTING YOU.

THAT WOULD NOT BE ALL THAT BAD AN IDEA.

YOU WANT TO BE ARRESTED?



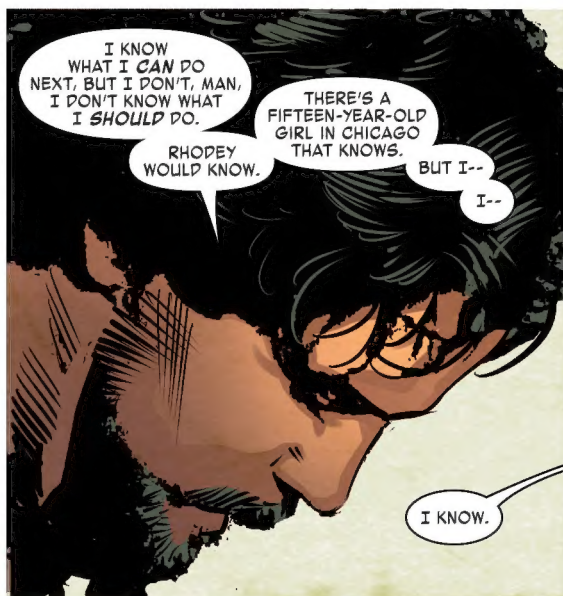
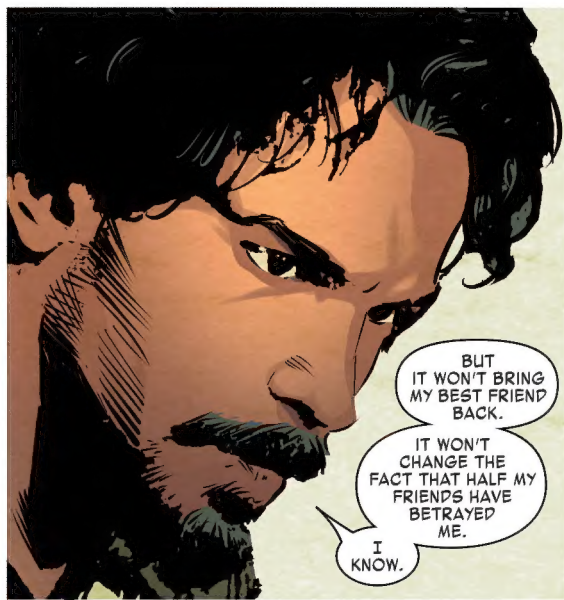














SOCK IT TO SHELL-HEAD!

Send letters to **MHEROES@MARVEL.COM** and don't forget to mark them **"OKAY TO PRINT!"**

Welcome back, Shell-Heads! Assistant editor Alanna Smith here to say...admit it, you missed Doctor Doom, didn't you? Well, he's back in a big way, and so is Riri Williams! Keep an eye on those two--we've got some exciting things planned for them after CIVIL WAR II. And speaking of CIVIL WAR II, it continues to unfold across the Marvel Universe, with our Tony right at the center of it. Be sure to check out the main series and various tie-ins to see what trouble our boy is getting up to--but in the meantime, let's get to your letters!

I'm sitting here devouring a lovely pile of comics the way most people devour nachos. And it's awesome. I wanted to thank you. Thanks for the enormous effort it takes to put these books out every month. It's glorious stuff and it makes a difference. The video games are cool and I love the movies...but, man. Nothing beats a nice stack of comics.

Life is a many-faceted thing. Some sides are shiny and others are sharp. It can get tiring and hard, so diversions are a great way to soften those edges and make them less...pointy. You do this. Every month. Every week. And I haven't ever thanked you.

This could go to any number of creators, but I wanted to make sure it reached you, Mr. Bendis. Because you are a mensch. You make a difference and I know that, while you enjoy it, it's a lot of work. And I hope you know that each comic you finish brings a smile to many fans all over the globe. Maybe they had a rough day or a hard year and picked up the latest IRON MAN to pass the time. And "whoosh," you took them away to a better place.

And that's pretty damned heroic.

Cheers,
Jameson Lee

Thanks for this lovely letter, Jameson--it warmed the very cockles of my heart. The very cockles!!!

I've informed Brian that he is indeed a mensch, and we hope you continue to enjoy his run on IRON MAN. We're all having a blast working on it, so it's great to hear that you're having just as much fun reading it.

Brian,

Good. Not good enough. Not for the flagship!

This whole issue was not even as good as its own cover; and I'm not entirely sure that was even by Deodato--looks more like Marquez to me. I don't see why Iron Patriot isn't in this series, either, ya know? As far as armored identities go,

it's better than War Machine; and Iron Patriot, or a version thereof, was used in CONTEST OF CHAMPIONS this week, so, there's that. Also notable to point out: Iron Man wasn't really in action this issue...cause he wasn't in the issue! Neither was Tony Stark, in a way. Not exactly my favorite series right now, still; as much as it's just...okay. This book is so dark!!! TOO dark. I don't know where the whole "Iron Maiden" thing is going, but I'm not seeing the relevance of that either, so far; Marvel could've done an Iron Maiden character, what, 30-40 years ago? I'm not a fan (of the band).

It's time to challenge Tony Stark again, and Iron Man, and Brian Bendis, and maybe even Iron Maiden and War Machine!

Cheers,
Andrew J. Shaw

Sorry you're not digging it right now, Andrew, but I do have some news you might like. We ARE planning to bring back Iron Patriot--in U.S.AVENGERS!

Toni Ho, the daughter of Iron Man's ill-fated buddy-in-kidnapping Yinsen Ho, will be taking over as Iron Patriot starting in October. And it's gonna be siiiiiick!



As for Riri, give the kid a chance--she's still trying to figure out a name!

Good day, Marvel people!!

I am a new comic book fan because of this new IRON MAN!!! I am an MCU Iron Man fan originally, and after finding out that Marvel will start a new universe for the comic books with Iron Man as the face of this universe, I knew that this was a sign for me to start reading.

When the new comic was released, I asked a friend from the U.S. to ship the first two issues to me (I'm from the Philippines, btw), and I'm pretty sure

that was one of my best decisions this year! THIS NEW IRON MAN IS FREAKIN' AWESOME!!! The story, the art and the jokes are all great. Hoping to read more comics from you guys!

A new IRON MAN fan,
Kim Borines

Welcome to the wacky world of comics, Kim! We're happy to have you, and I hope IRON MAN is just the first of many comics you read--there are a lot of good ones out there!

Been reading printed comics for almost 20 years and now I'm hooked on the new IRON MAN series on my Marvel Unlimited app. And it is awesome! Smart writing, crisp art, and amazing character development! This All-New age of Marvel keeps making our dreams come true!

Josh Bautista

That's awesome, Josh! Thank you for your kind letter! And you raise an important point--looks like the first four issues of INVINCIBLE IRON MAN are now up on Marvel Unlimited! Guys, Marvel Unlimited is great--there are SO many comics up there. I use it all the time to gather reference shots from older books, and you can use it to read SO. MANY. THINGS. It's like being able to break into the Marvel library here at Marvel HQ any time you want--without, like, being arrested and stuff!

Come back next month to see the return of one of the coolest ladies in Tony's life--but is she going to be happy to see him? Well, I'm not gonna tell you! You'll have to read and find out!

Until next time, Shell-Heads!

-The Invincible Alanna Smith

NEXT ISSUE:



COLLATERAL DAMAGE!